

1. (Amended) A method for providing an electronic course for instruction of students via an electronic communications network, the method comprising the steps of:
describing an illustrative scenario for an electronically deliverable course;
defining at least one possible role assignment for a corresponding student of the course based on the illustrative scenario;
providing a task for the student based on the role assignment and the scenario;
establishing a guidance system accessible to the student over the electronic communications network to provide guidance for solving the task; and
assigning the at least one possible role assignment to each student of the course.

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3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein the electronic tools comprise a calculator for determining an intermediate result or precursor to the solution of the task.

Please add the following claims:

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6 A2. (New) A method for providing an electronic course for instruction of students via an electronic communications network, the method comprising the steps of:
describing an illustrative scenario for an electronically deliverable course;
defining at least one possible role assignment for a corresponding student of the course based on the illustrative scenario;
providing a task for the student based on the role assignment and the scenario; and
establishing a guidance system accessible to the student over the electronic communications network to provide guidance for solving the task, wherein the establishing step comprises tailoring the level of guidance to the student based on an assigned level of the student.

7 A3. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein tailoring the level of guidance to the student further comprises tailoring the level of guidance to the student

based on an assigned level of the student from previous feedback from an instructor during the course.

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~~44.~~ (New) The method according to claim ⁶~~42~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises developing a hint on solving a task as a lowest level of guidance.

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~~45.~~ (New) The method according to claim ⁶~~42~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises developing a specific direction on solving a task as a highest level of guidance.

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~~46.~~ (New) The method according to claim ⁶~~42~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises establishing an electronic library of presentations associated with the task, the electronic library being accessible via the electronic communications network.

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~~47.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁰~~46~~ wherein the presentations are selected from the group consisting of an audio presentation, a visual presentation, and multimedia presentation.

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~~48.~~ (New) The method according to claim ⁶~~42~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting a real-time communications link to other students as the guidance system.

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~~49.~~ (New) The method according to claim ⁶~~42~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting an e-mail communications link to other students as the guidance system.


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~~50.~~ (New) The method according to claim ⁶~~42~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting a communications link to an instructor as the guidance system.

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~~51.~~ (New) A method for providing an electronic course for instruction of students via an electronic communications network, the method comprising the steps of:
describing an illustrative scenario for an electronically deliverable course;
defining at least one possible role assignment for a corresponding student of the course based on the illustrative scenario;

providing a task for the student based on the role assignment and the scenario; and

establishing a guidance system accessible to the student over the electronic communications network to provide guidance for solving the task, wherein the establishing step comprises developing a hint on solving a task as a lowest level of guidance.

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~~52.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁵~~51~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises developing a specific direction on solving a task as a highest level of guidance.

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~~53.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁵~~51~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises establishing an electronic library of presentations associated with the task, the electronic library being accessible via the electronic communications network.

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~~54.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁷~~53~~ wherein the presentations are selected from the group consisting of an audio presentation, a visual presentation, and multimedia presentation.

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~~55.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁵~~51~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting a real-time communications link to other students as the guidance system.

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~~56.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁵~~51~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting an e-mail communications link to other students as the guidance system.

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~~57.~~ (New) The method according to claim ¹⁵~~51~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting a communications link to an instructor as the guidance system.

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~~58.~~ (New) A method for providing an electronic course for instruction of students via an electronic communications network, the method comprising the steps of:
describing an illustrative scenario for an electronically deliverable course;

defining at least one possible role assignment for a corresponding student of the course based on the illustrative scenario;

providing a task for the student based on the role assignment and the scenario; and

establishing a guidance system accessible to the student over the electronic communications network to provide guidance for solving the task, wherein the establishing step comprises associating a group of different levels of guidance for a task and allowing a student to select one or more desired levels of guidance from the levels of available guidance.

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~~59~~. (New) The method according to claim ²²~~58~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting a real-time communications link to other students as the guidance system.

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~~60~~. (New) The method according to claim ²²~~58~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting an e-mail communications link to other students as the guidance system.

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~~61~~. (New) The method according to claim ²²~~58~~ wherein the establishing step further comprises supporting a communications link to an instructor as the guidance system.

REMARKS

I. Office Action Summary

Claims 1-41 are presently pending. Claims 15-41 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claim 1 is the remaining independent claim. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 3 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 8 and 9 were rejected as anticipated by Sloane et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,813,863) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The Examiner rejected claims 2-3 and 11-13 as obvious over the Sloane reference in view of Cook et al. (US Pat. No. 5,727,950) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner indicated